

Claims

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- A Hp-Hb complex (haptoglobin-haemoglobin complex) or a part thereof or a mimic thereof being operably linked to a substance, wherein the Hp-Hb complex or the part thereof or the mimic thereof is capable of binding a CD163 receptor and/or a CD163 receptor variant.
- 2. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 1, in a purified form.
- 3. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 1, in an isolated form.
- 4. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 1, wherein the complex is dimeric.
 - 5. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 1, wherein the complex is multimeric.
- 20 6. The Hp-Hb part or mimic according to claim 1, capable of binding to a region in one or more of the SRCR domains I-IX of the CD163 receptor.
 - 7. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 1, wherein the substance comprises a medicament.
 - 8. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 7, wherein the medicament is selected from antibiotics and anticancer drugs.
- 9. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 7, wherein the medicament is selected from anti-HIV drugs.
 - 10. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 1, wherein the substance comprises a gene.
- 11. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 10, wherein the gene comprises a nucleic acid, such as PNA, LNA, DNA or RNA.
 - 12. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 10, wherein the gene comprises cDNA.

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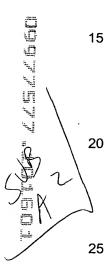
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- 13. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 10, wherein the gene is encoding CD163.
- 14. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 1, wherein the substance comprises an antibody or an antigen.
- 15. The Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a milimic thereof according to any of the claims 1-14, wherein the substance comprises a tracer or a marker.
- 16. The Hp-Hb as mimic, according to any of/the claims, wherein the mimic is an antibody.
- 17. A method of treatment of an individual comprising administration of the Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof according to claim 1, the method comprising the steps of:
- iv) providing a Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof as defined in claim1 capable of binding to the CD163 variant,
- v) operably linking a substance as defined in the claims 1-16 to the Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof,
- vi) administering the substance operably linked to the Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof to an individual in need thereof.
- 18. A composition comprising a Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof, or a mimic thereof as defined in claim 1.
- A CD163 variant capable of binding at least one haptoglobin-haemoglobin (Hp-Hb) complex.
 - 20. The CD163 variant according to claim 19, wherein the at least one Hp-Hb complex is dimeric.
- 35 21. The CD163 variant according to claim 19, wherein the at least one Hp-Hb complex is multimeric.
 - 22. The CD163 variant according to claim 19, comprising the SRCR domains I-IX of the CD 163 receptor, or a variant thereof.

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- 23. The CD163 variant according to claim 22, comprising at least the Hp-Hb binding region.
- 24. The CD163 variant according to claim 19, wherein the binding affinity has a Kd of 100 nM or less.
 - 25. The CD163 variant according to claim 19, wherein the binding affinity has a Kd of 10 nM or less.
- 10 26. A CD163 variant according to claim 19, which is soluble
 - 27. A medicament comprising the CD163 variant as defined in claim 18.
 - 28. A method of treatment of an individual comprising administration of a CD163 variant according to any of claims 19 to 26.
 - 29. The method according to claim 17 wherein the method comprises drug-delivery treatment of an individual in need of such treatment.
 - 30. The method according to claim 17, wherein the method comprises gene delivery treatment of an individual in need of such treatment.
 - 31. The method according to claim or 28, wherein the method comprises treatment of haemolysis in an individual in need of such treatment.
 - 32. A diagnostic composition comprising a CD 163 variant as defined in claim 19.
 - 33. The composition according to claim 32, said CD163 being expressed by a cell said method comprising administrating a Hp-Hb complex operably linked to a marker for marking the CD163 representing cell.
 - 34. The composition according to claim 33, for identifying macrophages in a biological sample from an individual.
- 35. A composition comprising at least one purified CD163 receptor and/or at least one purified CD163 variant as defined in claim 19.
 - 36. A method for diagnosing a pathological condition comprising administrating a composition as defined in claim 35.

37. A medicament comprising at least one Hp-Hb complex, or a part thereof or a mimic thereof as defined in claim 1.

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